32. Al-Halim
(The Forbearing)

"Allah's forbearance gives the sinner time to repent. Learn forbearance from your Lord – be patient with those who test you."

- Sufyan al-Thawri (716-778 CE)
Source: Ibn Abi al-Dunya's
"Kitab al-Hilm"
(Book of Forbearance)

If a paper on which this Name is written, is soaked in water and such water sprinkled on anything, barakah will be imparted to such a thing and it will be safeguarded against all calamities - Al Hisnul Hasin

BI'ISMIHI TA'AALA

Asmaa ul Husna

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The Most Beautiful Names of Allah ﷻ

Ml.Moosa Kajee

AL-HALEEM ﷻ (THE BEING WHO IS FOREBEARANTﷻ)

Al-Haleem ﷻ is that Being who is forebearant. He ﷻ does not hasten in punishing them due to their sins. He ﷻ is that Being who forgives and is so forebearant that His anger does not come to an end, and neither does the ignorance of the ignorant or the sins of sinners lessen His forebearance. He ﷻ looks at His servants whilst they disbelieve in Him and disobey Him. Then too, He ﷻ displays forebearance. He ﷻ delays, gives respite, delays the matters and does not hasten. He ﷻ conceals the faults from others and He forgives. He ﷻ rains down upon His creation outward and inward bounties in spite of their sins and abundance of errors. He ﷻ reprimands and censures sinners so that they repent, and He ﷻ grants them respite so that they can return (to Him). He ﷻ is that Being who does not prevent and stop His bounties and favours from His servants due to their sins. In fact He ﷻ grants sustenance to the sinner just as He ﷻ grants to the obedient one; and He ﷻ continues to send down His favours even though the person is engrossed in His sins just as He ﷻ keeps bestowing to the pious and obedient one. The heavens, the earth, the mountains and the ocean daily request Allaah ﷻ that they want to destroy the sinners, but Al-Haleem prohibits them.

He ﷻ does not immediately punish, not due to weakness. He ﷻ forgives and continues overlooking due to His forebearance. He continues granting them respite whilst having full power over them, because nothing can incapacitate Him.

His ﷻ forbearance also is not due to not having knowledge of those actions which His servants do, but in fact He ﷻ is All-Knowing and Forebearant, the Being who knows the treachery of the eyes and that which the hearts conceal. Allaahﷻ states,

وَاللّٰهُ يَعْلَمُ مَافِيْ قُلُوْبِكُمْ وَكَانَ اللّٰهُ عَلِيْمًا حَلِيْمًا

And Allaah knows that which is in your hearts, and Allaah ﷻ is All-Knowing, the Most Forebearant. (Ahzaab)

Due to His perfect knowledge, He ﷻ is fully aware of every single person's evil thoughts and disrespectful ideologies. When He ﷻ wishes, He ﷻ can apprehend. However, due to His perfect tolerance, He ﷻ does not apprehend and take to task immediately. He ﷻ grants all respite.

His forbearance on His creation is not due to any need of His from them, because He ﷻ is Forebearant on them, He ﷻ forgives and overlooks them together with being independent of them. Allaah ﷻ states, "And Allaah is Most-Forgiving, Most Forebearant." (Baqarah)

وَلَوْ يُؤَاخِذُ اللَّهُ النَّاسَ بِمَا كَسَبُوا مَا تَرَكَ عَلَى ظَهْرِهَا مِن دَابَّةٍ وَلَكِن يُؤَخِّرُهُمْ إِلَى أَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى فَإِذَا جَاء أَجَلُهُمْ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ بِعِبَادِهِ بَصِيرًا

And if Allah were to punish men for that which they earned, He would not leave a moving (living) creature on the surface of the earth, but He gives them respite to an appointed term, and when their term comes, then verily, Allah is Ever All-Seer of His slaves. (Faatir)

The angels who carry the Arsh of Allaah ﷻ are constantly engaged in His *tasbeeh* (glorification). The *tasbeeh* of some of them is:

سبحانك على حلمك بعد علمك

We glorify You because of Your tolerance despite Your knowledge (of our shortcomings).

The *tasbeeh* of the others is:

سبحانك على عفوك بعد قدرتك

We glorify you because of Your forgiveness despite Your ability (to punish). *(Ibn Katheer)*